the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. Each Department is under the charge of a Minister and the business allocated to the Department under the Allocation of Business Rules, is disposed of under the general or special directions of the Minister-in-charge of the Department. The number of Ministries/Departments at a given point of time is thus based on the administrative convenience of the Government. While it is true that recently seven new posts of secretaries have been created consequent on creation of new departments, three posts at the level of secretaries have either been abolished or kept in abeyance. There are 2 secretaries who have been given charge of 2 departments each.

As for cutting expenditure on the salaries of the civil servants in general, the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) has been issuing instructions from time to time to control creation of Plan and Non-Plan posts and to abolish a certain percentage of posts in order to reduce the expenditure on salaries. In August, 1999, instructions were issued by that Ministry to all the Ministries/ Departments, *inter alia*, to undertake a review of all the posts which were lying vacant in the Ministries/Departments and in their Attached and Subordinate Offices, etc. in consultation with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). These instructions envisage that till the reivew is completed, no vacant posts will be filled up except with the approval of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). Further, such Ministries/Departments as had not fully implemented the Government's earlier decision to achieve 10% reduction in the number of posts (as on 1.1.1992) have been asked to implement that decision immediately. According to the information available with the Ministry of Finance, approximately 1.83 lakh posts have been abolished so far in various Ministries/Departments as a result of this exercise.

Ban on new recruitments

593. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed all Departments not to process new recruitment;

(b) whether Government are contemplating any cut in the existing strength of employees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government had decided to effect a 10% cut in the number of sanctioned posts as on 1.1.1992. This decision is being implemented. Besides, the austerity guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) provide, *inter-alia*, for a review of all vacant posts before they are filled up.

Commission to evaluate the working of Government Servants

594. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to appoint any Commission to evaluate the working of the government servants and also to bring transparency in the working system as per the decision of the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The existing Government instructions provide for a review of service rendered by a Government servant after completion of 30 years of qualifying service or attaining the age of 50 years whichever is earlier. In view of this, no further action is contemplated by the Government.